



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
Washington, D.C. 20503

April 12, 2005

The Honorable Greg Walden
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Walden:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting increased federal resources for state and local law enforcement in rural areas across the country. Our *National Drug Control Strategy* seeks to drive down drug use through a balanced strategy: (1) Stopping Use Before It Starts, (2) Healing America's Drug Users, and (3) Disrupting the Market.

Law enforcement is crucial in disrupting the market and attacking the production, distribution, and trafficking of illicit drugs. For this reason, the Fiscal Year 2006 Drug Budget proposes \$3.359 billion for domestic law enforcement, an increase of nearly \$70 million from the 2005 enacted level. Combined with state and local efforts, we are delivering the appropriate law enforcement response to the threat of drugs in our communities.

Regarding High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) designation for Umatilla County, we are currently reviewing our Fiscal Year 2005 appropriation for the HIDTA program and assessing where our discretionary resources can be best utilized.

Concerning methamphetamine production and use, the Bush Administration has begun an intensive inter-agency effort called for in the National Synthetic Drugs Action Plan. Through this effort, federal agencies are identifying effective measures to disrupt small toxic labs, control pseudoephedrine diversion and encourage prevention and treatment measures.

I appreciate your valuable insights and perspectives. Please feel free to contact me directly at (202) 395-6700, or have your staff contact my Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 395-6602. Thank you again for your commitment to the President's *National Drug Control Strategy*.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John P. Walters".

John P. Walters
Director